

Remarks

The title has been amended to make editorial changes therein, bearing in mind the criticisms in the Official Action, to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

The indication that claims 3-5, 7, 11-13 and 15 include patentable subject matter is acknowledged with thanks. In reliance thereon, claims 3 and 11 have been amended into independent form by adding the subject matter of claims 1-2 and 9-10, respectively, thereto. Allowance of amended claims 3 and 11 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2, 8-10 and 16 have been canceled, and claims 6 and 14 have been amended into independent form by adding the subject matter of claims 1-2 and 9-10, respectively, thereto.

Claims 6 and 14 were rejected as unpatentable over SHIMIZU et al. 5,936,224 in view of LAW et al. ("A multi-threaded streaming pipeline architecture for structured data sets," Visualization '99 Proceedings) and JP 11-135054. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 6 and 14 provide, among other features, that in each of the n threads, the procedure is described for executing a predetermined kind of image processing and another kind of image processing in succession. The Official Action relies on JP '054 for the suggestion to modify the proposed combination to include

this feature. However, this reference does not disclose or suggest that each of the threads describes a procedure for executing two kinds of image processing in succession. The reference describes a system that is applicable to basic image processing and to image processing requiring advanced calculation at high speed, but does not go so far as to suggest that each of the threads describes the procedure for executing these processes in succession. The threads in the reference are applicable to both processes separately.

Accordingly, amended claims 6 and 14 avoid the rejection under §103.

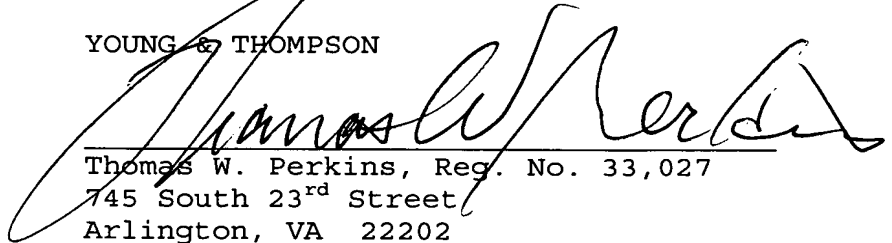
In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Please charge the fee of \$86 for the one extra independent claim added herewith to Deposit Account No. 25-0120.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. §1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



Thomas W. Perkins, Reg. No. 33,027
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573

TWP/lrs